

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 231869

64

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 SS-15 SP-02 L-02 H-01 INR-05

RSC-01 /040 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VN:RHWENZEL:AOA

APPROVED BY EA:P.C. HABIB

PM:TSTERN (DRAFT)

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R 212346Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T STATE 231869

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, VS

SUBJECT: LEVEL OF FY-1976 MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR VIET-NAM

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT OMB PLANS HEARINGS NOVEMBER 5 ON THE FY-1976 MILITARY AID LEVEL FOR VIET-NAM. AT THESE HEARINGS THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ASKED FOR ITS VIEWS ON THE LEVEL OF MILITARY AID WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD REQUEST FOR FY-1976. THUS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FROM YOU BY OCTOBER 30 THE DAV LEVEL YOU WOULD RECOMMEND FOR FY-1976 AND A BRIEF RATIONALE THEREFOR. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE MISSION HAS PROBABLY NOT YET COMPLETED ITS WORK ON THE FY-76 SUBMISSION (WE UNDERSTAND FROM DOD THAT THE DAO INPUT TO CINCPAC IS NOT DUE UNTIL MID-NOVEMBER). IN THIS EVENT, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR BEST PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE AS TO WHAT THE LEVEL SHOULD BE.

2. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, WE ARE TOLD THAT SEC DEF'S GUIDELINE FOR FY-76 IS DOLS 1 BILLION. VON MARBOD HAS INFORMED US HE BELIEVES THAT DOLS 1 BILLION IS BOTH A FLOOR AND A CEILING -- I.E. IT IS THE MINIMUM WE CAN GET BY WITH

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PAGE 02 STATE 231869

(ASSUMING WE RECEIVE A DOLS 300 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL); IT

IS ALSO THE HIGHEST FIGURE WE CAN REALISTICALLY REQUEST. IN
VIEW OF THE FY-75 SHORTFALL, THE EA BUREAU (IN A PRELIMI-
NARY ASSESSMENT OF THIS ISSUE) IS INCLINED TOWARD REQUEST-
ING THE TOP OF THE RANGE SET FORTH IN THE SECRETARY'S SIX-

YEAR PROJECTIONS SUBMITTED TO CONGRESSIONAL CHAIRMEN
ON JULY 22 -- THAT IS, DOLS 1.2 BILLION. INGERSOLL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE231869
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RHWENZEL:AOA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740299-1105
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741029/aaaaaymk.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEVEL OF FY-1976 MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR VIET-NAM
TAGS: MASS, VS, US, OMB
To: SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005